



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 10, 2006
Week Ending: July 9, 2006
CWP WA-CW2806

Hailstorm Causes Crop Damage

Field Crops

A hailstorm in the southeast region of the state caused some damage to winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, potatoes and alfalfa. The storm and high temperatures caused conditions to decrease slightly as a result. Winter wheat was turning and harvest will begin shortly. Irrigation continued to be in full swing as producers tried to minimize the impact of decreasing soil moisture. Green pea harvest is underway and greenhouse tomato growers began harvesting.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 65% good and 5% excellent. Pastures were in good condition but began to show stress from the heat. Livestock are growing fast due to the healthy pastures. Some livestock losses were reported in Douglas County due to the hail damage. Oyster growers continued harvesting and treating heavily infested burrowing shrimp areas.

Fruit and Vegetables

Fruit producers reported crop damage to apples, pears and cherries from the heavy hailstorm that took place. Strawberry quality and yields were good this year but there is a labor shortage for harvesting. The raspberry and cherry harvest continued and the blueberry harvesting has begun.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	37	60	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	32	58	0
Subsoil	0	21	79	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	38	54	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	99	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	0	13	86	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	87	70	99	98
Winter Wheat Headed	100	99	100	100
Barley Headed	88	65	98	98
Potatoes Harvested	2	1	3	5
Corn (Silked)	15	3	36	7
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	62	37	71	64
Dry Peas Harvested	18	3	17	4
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	99	97	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	54	40	62	60

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	7	25	55	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	60	30
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	15	38	40	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	18	67	15
Barley Dryland	0	13	37	44	6
Barley Irrigated	0	0	4	66	30
Potatoes	0	1	19	75	5
Corn	0	2	13	85	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	24	50	25

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Area raspberry growers were reporting extreme crop damage due to high temperatures the third week of June. This has caused quality problems, and coupled with market import issues was making a grim outlook in the 2006 crop year for red raspberries. The strawberry crops were excellent, however, despite the heavy yields and high quality this year; many growers were reporting that labor shortages have meant that they were forced to leave entire fields of strawberries sitting unpicked. One grower stated he was only able to find labor to pick 300,000 pounds of his 1,000,000 pound total strawberry crop.

Grays Harbor: Warm, sunny, weather dominated agricultural activity throughout the county. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for cutting and baling hay. Sweet corn growers were hard pressed to keep up with irrigation requirements. Christmas tree growers started shearing Grand fir. Greenhouse tomato growers began harvesting their first crop of the season. U-Pick vegetable farms reported brisk sales of early season vegetables. Hayfields and pastures on lighter soils were showing drought stress.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Hay growers have appreciated the dry weather which has allowed a fairly uneventful harvest. However, the dry weather was rapidly evaporating the surplus of moisture that was experienced in early June.

Mason: Received 1/10th of an inch rain on Wednesday evening in the form of a thunderstorm. It was generally cooler early in the week but hot Saturday and Sunday. Irrigating was in full swing as soil moistures were low. Hopefully the rain predicted for mid week materializes for the pastures.

N. King/Snohomish: Warm, sunny weather most of the week with a few showers on Thursday. Crops and pastures were doing great. Raspberry harvest continued, as blueberry harvest was just beginning. Apples were sizing up nicely. Experimental oilseed crops were in bloom in the Snohomish River valley.

N. King/Snohomish (2nd Report): The weather continued to be warm with temperatures in the 60's and 70's. Crops were back to normal, but there were some cool mornings. Clallam and Jefferson counties also had normal weather

and the farmers were hard at work.

Pacific: Growers were able to complete a variety of field operations with continued dry weather. Cranberry growers were still evaluating production levels with this year's late bloom and pollination, and earlier winter kill effects. Oyster growers continued limited harvest operations and seed transplant. Growers also treated heavily infested burrowing shrimp areas. Hay producers enjoyed dry conditions for final production of hay. Raspberry harvest operations continued with dry conditions.

Pierce/S. King: Crops were looking good in the South Puget Sound area thanks to the warm temperatures. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event. No unusual situations to report.

Skagit: With no major rain over the 4th of July the majority of the potato crop was running out of soil moisture. Many farmers were actively irrigating but not all the acreage could be covered. Producers were starting to see some late blight show up in the fields and were actively spraying to control the blight. Seed crops were looking good in the Skagit Valley. Grass seed should be swathed this week and allowed to dry before it is harvested. The raspberry harvest was underway with average or above average harvest levels. The blueberry harvest was expected to begin in approximately two weeks. The green pea harvest should begin this week or next in the Skagit Valley delta.

Thurston: Another week of very warm temperatures and no rain has exacerbated dry conditions throughout the county. Most pastures and hayfields without irrigation were showing drought stress especially on lighter soils. Christmas tree growers complained about aphid infestations in Douglas, Noble and Grand fir fields. Some growers began shearing Grand and Norman fir. Turf grass growers continued to feel stressed to keep up with irrigation demands. Raspberry harvest continued in full swing with growers reporting that the warm temperatures may shorten the harvest. Most agricultural producers would welcome a couple of days of rain.

Whatcom: There were no unusual conditions to report this week. Red raspberry harvest moved into full swing while other crops grew under ideal conditions.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: A storm on July 5 consisting of heavy rain, high winds, and hail (golf ball sized) caused damage through Chelan County from Cashmere north through Dryden, upper Entiat and right over the top of Manson. The swath was reasonably narrow but intense. Many growers have reported 100 percent losses to their apples, cherries and pears. The hail damaged fruit, stripped trees of their leaves and caused bark damage to young trees making them susceptible to disease. Some grapes were also lost. Douglas County reported the loss of some livestock due to lightning from this same storm.

Franklin: Weather has been rather warm. Late blight was found in potatoes in a few fields in Franklin County.

Grant: Second cutting of alfalfa was underway, with some yield losses being reported due to the lateness of the first cutting. Cherry harvest was underway, with some good yields being reported. Fresh pea harvest continued.

Kittitas: Hot, dry, and breezy weather helped in getting nearly 100 percent of the timothy hay in. Cool season pastures were into the downside of their seasonal root cycle and pasture yields have slowed.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 4 to 17 degrees above normal, with 0.06 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: A major storm moved through the county causing damages including severe hail damage on both spring and winter cereal.

Adams (2nd Report): Mother Nature put on her own fireworks display on July 4, with a narrow band of hail, lightning, high winds, and hard rain devastating a path from north of Washtucna, to the Lincoln County line. Reports of up to 100 percent losses, with 50 to 80 percent estimates more common to standing grain crops. Potatoes and alfalfa poised for second cutting were also significantly affected. Later in the week, another storm passed through the western 1/3 of the county, but thankfully, hail was absent from the rains. Wheat crops turned significantly in the past week, and harvest will not be far off in the early parts of the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot, dry conditions persisted during the past week. The hotter than normal weather has caused grain crops to ripen rapidly, causing concerns for proper filling and grain quality. Harvest has just begun in the Central Ferry area of Garfield County.

Ferry/Okanogan: The county office received reports from producers and field men of weather related damage to the orchards in Okanogan County. There was a very large amount of severe russet in apples, particularly in golden's, as well as almost all other apple varieties. This russet started showing in late May following very unusual weather events. This particular weather started in late April and early May with a very cool and rainy period with temperatures in the low 30's on May 9 through May 14. Followed by temperatures in the 90's on May 16 through May 20 with near record rainfall and cool temperatures. This russetting was the worst in golden delicious. The damage varied from orchard to orchard but was estimated from 50 to 75 percent or more of golden delicious apples will be unmarketable and the fruit will be left on the trees as processing prices do not justify picking. Damage to the other varieties ranges from almost none to nearly a 100 percent depending on the orchard. The other recent weather related damage was from the hailstorms on July 4, 5 and 6. The total extent of the damage will take some time to evaluate, but was quite extensive and involves orchards from the west end of Spectacle Lake to Loomis and the north through Palmer Lake, and from several miles south of Oroville to the Canadian border. At least some of the damage was quite severe.

Lincoln: A major storm moved through the eastern part of Lincoln County causing numerous damages including severe hail damage on both spring and winter cereal.

Lincoln (2nd Report): There was extensive hail damage in a 30 square mile strip. There was 30 to 90 percent loss on

some fields. The hail was measured at up to 1.25 inches, with 80 mph winds which damaged crops, trees and gardens. Birds were seen lying dead under trees from the huge hail.

Pend Orielle: Temperatures were 88 degrees for the highs, and 34 degrees for the lows with precipitation at 0.15 inches plus. Haying was still in full swing; however it was slowed down by machine break downs on several farms. Hay was selling fast this year. Livestock were growing with hogs doubling their weight in the past week. Calves were growing fast on pasture grasses. Hens were laying. Lightning storms brought lots of lights but little rain.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: Another week of hot weather was taking its toll on the grain crops. Shallow spots were now burned up and winter wheat was turning indicating early stress. This will more than likely have an impact on test weight and the filling of the head. Spring crops were also suffering from the heat forcing them to mature faster than normal which also will have a negative effect on the yields. The majority of the bluegrass seed crop has been swathed with some harvest to begin this week weather permitting. Swathing bluegrass seed was a challenge this year due to the ergot that was present in the crop. The effect this will have on seed production and clean seed was unknown. The warm weather has been very beneficial for hay producers who have mostly completed the first cutting without rain.

Stevens: Mid-week thunderstorms dampened hay crops ready for baling. Hot weather the rest of the week allowed hay producers to finish their first cutting. Grain crops and pastures continued to look good.

Walla Walla: Very hot weather has been great for haying, but has stressed the grains. Some green peas have burned up and were not being cut as green peas. More green peas were on the way. The first grain harvesting was started in the west end. Mountain grass still looked good.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Weather conditions remained good. Some scattered thunder showers over the 4th of July with a short duration of heavy rain. Crops looked good throughout the counties. Some wheat harvest will begin this week in the northern areas of the counties.

Whitman: Winter wheat was ripening in the 90 degree heat. Peas were done blooming and starting to turn. Spring cereals looked average. Summer fallow work and preparation for harvest was being done. Winter wheat in the western end of the county will be cut soon.

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 10, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	46	80	61	-1	78	-1	11	-4	0.00	-0.35	0	31.93	-1.96	94	158
Everett	52	79	62	-1	83	-1	19	-2	0.03	-0.29	2	30.47	-3.78	89	164
Hoquiam	47	77	60	0	71	2	9	2	0.00	-0.33	0	69.51	3.94	106	184
Kelso	46	90	65	2	104	14	34	8	0.00	-0.26	0	42.17	-2.25	95	153
Olympia	42	87	64	2	96	13	27	7	0.00	-0.22	0	52.03	3.25	107	151
Sea-Tac	53	86	66	2	111	11	42	9	0.02	-0.19	2	36.37	0.79	102	152
Shelton	45	88	63	-2	92	-5	23	-8	0.01	-0.25	1	67.92	4.89	108	158
Tacoma	46	84	64	1	99	2	31	3	0.00	-0.24	0	38.46	0.06	100	141
Vancouver	48	92	67	4	121	24	51	23	0.00	-0.21	0	41.71	2.16	105	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	102	75	9	179	61	109	58	0.05	-0.02	2	12.04	3.66	144	90
Stampede Pass	45	82	64	11	100	67	40	40	0.12	-0.27	3	68.57	-9.35	88	173
Wenatchee	55	97	78	7	196	42	126	42	0.03	-0.04	2	7.21	-0.52	93	67
Yakima AP	43	98	75	7	176	44	106	43	0.06	-0.01	2	9.70	2.20	129	77
NORTHEAST															
Colville	48	93	73	8	160	52	90	48	0.33	0.12	2	19.99	0.81	104	110
Deer Park	42	94	69	3	137	15	67	13	0.00	-0.21	0	28.03	10.84	163	126
Spokane AP	51	94	74	7	169	47	99	45	0.08	-0.09	1	19.64	4.31	128	115
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	99	77	4	192	27	122	27	0.08	0.01	1	9.72	2.98	144	75
Moses Lake	51	99	76	3	180	15	110	15	0.09	0.02	1	12.04	5.30	179	91
Quincy	52	96	76	7	186	47	116	46	0.02	-0.05	1	11.71	4.42	161	89
Ritzville	47	98	74	8	172	49	102	46	0.08	-0.06	1	15.24	4.58	143	97
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	104	80	5	212	28	142	28	0.00	-0.05	0	6.12	0.06	101	49
Pasco	49	101	78	5	196	31	126	31	0.01	-0.04	1	9.64	2.62	137	77
Pullman	45	93	70	7	143	46	73	38	0.03	-0.18	2	13.49	-6.24	68	109
Whitman Miss.	44	101	75	6	176	37	106	36	0.00	-0.14	0	17.10	4.26	133	118
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	95	72	5	158	34	88	32	0.00	-0.25	0	10.83	-13.22	45	87
Lewiston ID	58	102	80	8	211	53	141	52	0.21	0.04	2	11.72	0.51	105	94

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days =

Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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